

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**August 1, 2016**  
**City Hall Conference Room**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Thomas Stiehm, Council Members Michael Jordal, Jeremy Carolan, Jeff Austin, Steve King, Judy Enright and David Hagen

**ABSENT:** Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director Kim Underwood and City Clerk Ann Kasel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Austin Utilities General Manager Mark Nibaur, Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

**Item No. 1 –SMMPA Agency Agreement Changes**

Austin Utilities General Manager Mark Nibaur stated that the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency is seeking changes to the Agency Agreement. Currently SMMPA operates as an “all requirements” agency meaning that the member cities must buy all their power from agency. This proposed agreement would allow the member cities to purchase power from other sources and allow non-member cities to work on projects with the agency.

Mr. Nibaur stated the changes will be good for Austin Utilities and the 18 member cities are in favor of the project.

After additional discussion, moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, recommending approval of the revised agency agreement with SMMPA. Carried.

The item will be placed on the September 6, 2016 Council Agenda.

**Item No. 2 –Flood Property Acquisition – 1206 12<sup>th</sup> Drive SW**

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested authorization to purchase 1206 12<sup>th</sup> Drive SW with MnDNR grant and LOST funds. The home is not located in the flood plain but is very close to it and the property fits the City’s buyout guidelines for neighborhood removal and infrastructure expansion. Acquisition would be approximately \$44,000 and asbestos abatement and demolition approximately \$20,000.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, for the acquisition of 1206 12<sup>th</sup> Drive SW. Carried.

The item will be placed on the August 15, 2016 Council Agenda.

**Item No. 3 – Surplus Property Donation Policy**

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a policy for the donation of surplus City equipment to a non-profit organization. The donation was recently allowed by the Legislature with a law change. This policy would not require the City to donate to the non-profits but would give it the option to donate. The adoption was recommended by the City Attorney.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, for the adoption of a surplus property donation policy. Carried.

The item will be placed on the August 15, 2016 Council Agenda.

**Item No. 4 – Hormel Foundation Grant Requests**

Mr. Dankert presented the proposed 2017 Hormel Foundation grants. The Council reviewed and ranked the \$592,847 of requests on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the project most supported. The rankings were as follows:

1	Business Encouragement/Enhancement Partnership (BEEP) \$60,000
10	Community CPR Instruction \$5,700
2	Delivering the Data: Hotspot Data Plans 2017 \$28,800
7	Fire Prevention and Education \$5,000
3	Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Education Programs \$40,347
9	Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Ski Groomer \$5,500
4	Playground and Poured-In-Place Surface \$45,000
6	Riverside Arena Door Replacement \$62,500
8	Riverside Arena Summer Ice \$40,000
5	Targeted Area Redevelopment (TAR) \$300,000

The following grant applications will be submitted through the City but will not be ranked: Quality of Life \$41,500 and Marcusen Stadium Lighting/Public Address System \$120,800.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated he is additionally working on three grants that will be submitted through Vision 2020 for a trail connection, pedestrian lighting and 11<sup>th</sup> Drive NE bridge funding.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, recommending approval of the 2017 rankings for the Hormel Foundation Grant Applications. Carried.

The item will be placed on the August 15, 2016 Council Agenda.

### **Item No. 5 – Administrative Report**

City Administrator Craig Clark reviewed the 2016 Council Goals.

### **Item No. 6 – Open Discussion**

Council Member Jordal stated he was approached by Hy-Vee requesting to have 3.2 beer in their grocery store. He also noted that the liquor stores close early in Austin and would like the Austin City ordinance to align with the rest of the State.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated staff would check with the Police department and the issue would be brought forward at a future work session.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Hagen, adjourning the work session at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Ann M. Kasel  
City Clerk